Shaam will submit to none except Allah

Shaykh Ayman al Zawahiri (may Allah protect him)



In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

In the name of Allah. All praise belongs to Allah alone, and may peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allah, his family, Companions, and those who follow them.
My dear Muslim brothers the world over,
May peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.
To begin with, I would like to tell our beloved people in Shaam [the Levant] that your wounds are the wounds of the entire Ummah, and your pain is the pain of the entire Ummah. You are in our prayers at every moment, and we wish to sacrifice our souls for you. If anything stands in our way, it is the fact that we are engaged in fighting the same Crusader enemy which you are up against, though on a different front.
Our Muslim Ummah in Shaam, the land of Ribaat and Jihad: Know that the only reason you are being targeted is that you want Islam to rule over the land of Shaam, and the International Satanic Alliance will never accept this, and it will spare no effort to stop this Islamic tide.
Our dear people in Shaam: You must therefore prepare yourselves for a protracted war against the Crusaders and their Rafidhi and Nusairi allies. So remain steadfast, for verily victory comes with patience, ease with hardship, deliverance with affliction, and know that victory is often just a matter of timely perseverance. “So lose not heart, nor fall into despair, for you shall be victorious, if you indeed are true Believers.” [Aal-e-Imran: 139]
You are those who have taken up the path of Jihad in the way of Allah to raise the flag of Islam and Jihad on the land of Shaam, and to liberate it from oppression, tyranny and corruption. So do not backtrack. Know no wavering or compromise. Die honourably, but never accept a life of humiliation. Unite and close your ranks with your Muslim brothers and Mujahideen not just in Shaam, but the entire

world, for it is a single Crusader campaign being waged against Muslims the world over.
Our brothers in Shaam: Watch out for the progeny of Abu Righal, who wish to deceive you into buying the myth that only if you were to change your Jihad to an exclusively nationalist Syrian struggle, the leading international criminals would be pleased with you, for this goes against what the Quran has clearly explained: “Never will the Jews, nor the Christians be pleased with you, until you follow their creed.” [Al-Baqarah: 120]
My people and my brothers in Shaam: I would like to offer here a few words of advice as a reminder to you and myself.
First: We must constantly review our actions, and retract ourselves from everything which is capable of hindering victory. For we can never be better than the Companions of the Prophet (peace be upon him), who were denied victory when they disobeyed. Critical reassessment and correction of mistakes is the first step in the path to victory.
Second: In my humble opinion, the strategy for Jihad in Shaam must focus on a guerilla war aimed at wearing down the enemy and bleeding it to death. This has been the weapon of choice of the oppressed against arrogant transgressors in every age. Do not occupy yourselves with holding on to territory, instead focus on destroying the morale of your enemy. Take the enemy to the point of abysmal despair by inflicting unrelenting blows and unbearable losses on its forces.
Third: The cause of Shaam is the cause of the entire Ummah. We must not present it as merely a cause of the people of Shaam, and then further narrow it down to a cause of Syrians alone, for this is precisely the enemy’s plan and his much sought after objective. The enemy seeks to transform the Jihad in Shaam from a cause of the Muslim Ummah to an exclusively nationalist Syrian cause, then turn the nationalist cause to an issue of specific regions and localities, and finally reduce this to an issue of a few cities, villages and neighborhoods.

It is incumbent upon us to confront this evil strategy by declaring that the Jihad in Shaam is the Jihad of the Muslim Ummah aimed at establishing the rule of Allah in the land of Allah. This must coincide with encouraging the entire Ummah to participate in the Jihad of Shaam with its sons, wealth, efforts, and energies. And let us not forget here that those who defended Shaam earlier in history were none other than the likes of Salahuddin, Qutz, Bebres, Muhammad bin Qalawoon, and the Ottoman Turks, NONE of whom were Syrians, but were Muslims and Mujahids before anything else.

We must not submit therefore to the dictations of the leading criminals, who seek to intimidate us with accusations of ‘terrorism’ and ‘extremism’. These are the same forces that did not even spare Muhammad Mursi, inspite of the fact that he had given them all they had asked for. I ask Allah to give our people in Shaam steadfastness. May Allah bless them with His victory and support, and guide them to take a common stance alongside their Mujahideen brethren the world over against a common united enemy.

And our last prayer is that all Praise belongs to Allah alone, the Lord of the Worlds, and may peace and blessings be upon our Master, Muhammad, his family, and Companions. May peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.